

The Albert Van Voorhis House  
Franklin Avenue  
Township of Wyckoff, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Albert Van Voorhis House  
Franklin Avenue  
Township of Wyckoff, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Judge John B. Zabriskie

Date of Erection: 1824

Architect:

Builder: Albert Van Voorhis

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - sandstone  
partly stuccoed; gables clap-  
boards; clapboard addition in  
rear

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel with dormers,  
wood shingles

Historical Data:

The Van Voorhis family is one of the earliest of Colonial families in Bergen County. This house was built on part of a five hundred acre tract which was bought in 1740. The kitchen wing was built prior to the Revolution and was the first house erected in Wyckoff.

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Albert Van Voorhis erected the main body of this house in 1824, attaching it to this earlier kitchen wing.

When the main house was added some ingenuity was exercised by Van Voorhis; the kitchen wing was placed to the rear with the two axes at right angles. The second story was planned entirely for living quarters, so that the dormers are original and the high barrelled ceiling of the stair hall was built for effective elegance.

In the fireplace of the dining room, formerly the old kitchen fireplace, is an iron crane which is unusual in a Dutch house because ordinarily the chains were suspended from an iron bar built in the throat of the fireplace and not from a crane.

Bibliography:

Field Books and Drawings of Survey

Clarence H. Tabor, Jr., local historian

Nathaniel C. Root  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

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A D D E N D U M

This house stands on what was originally a five hundred and fifty acre tract that was bought in 1720 from John Parbetie and associates, merchants of New York City, by William<sup>5</sup> and John<sup>5</sup> Van Voor Haze, yeoman of Bergen County, and repurchased by them in 1745 to settle the claim of John Hamilton and associates. William settled on the land and undoubtedly built the old part of the present house. The purchase of the two brothers was divided between their heirs in 1767; apparently, the tract with the present dining room and kitchen wing fell to William's son Albert<sup>4</sup> born 1738 and died 1825. The door knocker of the main house is inscribed "A. V. V. E. 1824", so apparently Albert built the house at the age of eighty-six. He had one son John A.<sup>5</sup> born 1783 and died 1833. It was from his heirs that Uriah Quackenbush purchased in 1833. He willed it to his granddaughter Grace, the wife of Judge Zabriskie, who is the present owner.

The account of Miss Bailey corresponds with our original history with the exception that she has definitely fixed upon William Van Voorhees as the builder of the older portion. A frame addition now used as a garage was added to the house in the nineteenth century. It has no architectural value.

Bibliography:

Bailey, Rosalie F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, William Morrow and Company, 1936

*Walter C. Hunt*  
Supervising Historian

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*received May 9, 1939 JPH*